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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/711,247	09/03/2004	Reinhard Berger	LUKPI118US	5246
24041	7590	05/11/2006	EXAMINER	
SIMPSON & SIMPSON, PLLC			WRIGHT, DIRK	
5555 MAIN STREET			ART UNIT	
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221-5406			PAPER NUMBER	
			3681	

DATE MAILED: 05/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/711,247

Applicant(s)

BERGER ET AL.

Examiner

Dirk Wright

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 5, 12 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 6-11, 13 and 15-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. PCT/DE03/00646.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02252005
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____

Claims Rejected

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abe '879. Abe shows an emergency valve 2 that insures that only of the pair of twin clutches C1 or C2 can be engaged at any one time. In case on of the solenoid valves 12 or 14 fails, the feed back ports 2f and 2g insure that the spool 4 or 6 is positively closed for the clutch that is not engaged, thus cutting hydraulic pressure off from the clutch that is supposed to be disengaged. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abe '879. Abe does not specify whether or not his clutches C1 and C2 are dry or wet, but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art to manufacture them as dry clutches in order to reduce cost and save weight.

Claims Objected

Claims 2, 3, 6-11, 13, and 15-18 are objected to because they contain allowable subject matter yet depend from a rejected claim. The prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed combination of the rejected base claims, plus any intervening claims, with these dependent claims.

Prior Art Discussed

The examiner has considered the references cited by applicant in his Information Disclosure Statement filed February 25, 2005. None of the references show all of the features of

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the claimed invention, nor do they show that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine features therefrom to create the claimed invention.

The references cited by the examiner are deemed pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dirk Wright whose telephone number is 571-272-7098. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DW
Tuesday, May 09, 2006

Dirk Wright
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dirk Wright', is written over the printed name and title.